

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7218

BILL NUMBER: HB 1482

NOTE PREPARED: Apr 8, 2003

BILL AMENDED: Feb 18, 2003

SUBJECT: Abandoned Railroad Crossings.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Stevenson

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Jackman

BILL STATUS: As Passed - Senate

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 X DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill requires the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) upon request, to determine whether a railroad grade crossing is abandoned or unused. It requires designated crossings to be marked with a "tracks out of service" sign. The bill specifies that the law requiring school buses and certain other vehicles to stop and proceed in a certain manner at railroad crossings does not apply to a crossing marked with a "tracks out of service" sign. It establishes a procedure to be followed to change the signs at a crossing that again becomes operational.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) The bill requires that signs be posted and maintained by INDOT or the local road authority having jurisdiction over the roadway. The cost per sign is estimated at \$92.26. Two signs would be needed for each crossing, or a cost of \$184.52 per crossing. With an estimated 200 abandoned rail grade crossings, the total cost is estimated at \$36,940. The fund affected is the State Highway Fund. The \$36,940 represents the maximum exposure to the INDOT if a determination of all 200 estimated abandoned rail grade crossings was requested. Because a request for determination must be filed with the INDOT, the actual costs incurred by the INDOT will likely be less.

Background Information: The INDOT reports that there are 10,300 active rail grade crossings in the state, with 6,500 public rail grade crossings and 3,800 private rail grade crossings in the state. The INDOT estimates that there may be 200 abandoned rail grade crossings in the state, perhaps more. Currently, the Railroad Division with the INDOT is responsible for rail grade crossings. They have two inspectors for the state.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) See *Explanation of State Expenditures*.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Transportation.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Mike Scime, Section Manager, Railroad Division , Department of Transportation, 232-1491.

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